

# Research Implementation and Communication (RIC) Committee Report

Chair / Presenter: Victor Li

Co-Chair: Haluk Aktan

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# Committee Members

- Osama Abudayyeh (W. Michigan)
- Haluk Aktan (Wayne State)
- Gilbert Baladi (MSU)
- Tandy Bidinger (MDOT)
- Victor Li (UM)
- Terry McNich (LTAP, MTU)
- Barbara Schoen (MED-UM)
- Maria Szerszen (UM)
- Roger Till (MDOT)

# Charges from Research Subgroup, 2004 MDOT Summit

- Build partnerships between industry, government agencies, universities, and the private sector to identify mutual interests, needs and to leverage resources
- Develop a process to **implement research** findings
- Evaluate a balance between the allocation of funds to planning vs research
- Support and expand the LTAP program to assist in **technology transfer** across political levels and support the local effort through incentives to use the resulting technology

# Committee Recommendations

- Bench-Marking
  - MDOT vs other State DOTs
- Create Tech-Champions
  - Incentive Awards (for managers, researchers, designers, contractors....)
  - MDOT projects —> AASHTO TIG
- Resolve Proprietary Tech. Issues
  - University - MDOT
- Enhance Funding
  - Forward looking via LCC-LCA
  - Use of pooled funding for demo projects; FHWA IBRD
- Enhance Communications
  - Between all stake-holders (MDOT, users, researchers...)
  - Website as clearing house
  - Annual MI conference

# Factors Impeding Implementation of Research Results

## ➤ Current Status

- Guestimate: about 25% of research findings implemented by MDOT
- 2001 survey of State DOTs: 30-80%

## ➤ Inertia; Risk avoidance

- Champion of technology
- Setting incentives - awards to tech champion
- AASHTO TIG: 3/50 selected for national exposure

## ➤ Researcher Disincentives

- Recognition by university system
- Proprietary technology

# Factors Impeding Implementation of Research Results

- Funding for evaluation and validation
  - Take longer term, forward looking view
  - Better use of pooled funds
- Communications
  - Harmonize between needs and research
  - Forum for presenting research results
  - Publication of research records; Newsletters; Press releases, trade journals
  - Website as clearing house
  - Training programs/workshops
  - LTAP
  - Demonstration projects

# Acknowledgements

MTRB

for providing the structure for expressing committee ideas

MDOT

for continuous quality improvements of research delivery  
program

